



General Assembly

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A/RES/47/196
31 March 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 81

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/721)]

47/196. Observance of an international day for the eradication of poverty

The General Assembly,

Noting that the eradication of poverty and destitution in all countries, in particular in developing countries, has become one of the priorities of development for the 1990s, and considering that the promotion of the eradication of poverty and destitution requires public awareness,

Welcoming the fact that certain non-governmental organizations, on the initiative of one non-governmental organization, have in recent years in many States observed 17 October as World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty,

1. Decides to declare 17 October International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, to be observed beginning in 1993;
2. Notes that activities undertaken with respect to the Day will take into account those undertaken each 17 October by certain non-governmental organizations;
3. Invites all States to devote the Day to presenting and promoting, as appropriate in the national context, concrete activities with regard to the eradication of poverty and destitution;
4. Invites the Secretary-General to make recommendations on ways and means by which the Secretariat could, within existing resources and without prejudice to ongoing activities, assist States in organizing their national activities for the observance of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty;



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[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/721)]

47/197. International cooperation for the eradication of
poverty in developing countries

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, the Paris Declaration and Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s 2/ and the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, in February 1992, 3/

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least
Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

2/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

3/ TD/364, part one, sect. A.

Reaffirming also principle 5 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, 4/ chapter 3 of Agenda 21, 5/ principle 7 (a) of the Non-legally Binding Authoritative Statement of Principles for a Global Consensus on the Management, Conservation and Sustainable Development of All Types of Forests, 6/ and all other decisions and recommendations adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development relating to the eradication of poverty, 7/

Reaffirming further its resolutions 43/195 of 20 December 1988, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, 45/213 of 21 December 1990 and 46/141 of 17 December 1991,

Noting that the eradication of poverty in all countries, in particular in developing countries, has become one of the priority development objectives for the 1990s,

Stressing that effective national policies supported by a favourable international economic environment can promote sustained and sustainable development in all countries, in particular in developing countries, thus increasing their capacity to undertake social and economic programmes to eradicate poverty,

Noting with concern the negative effects of large debt burdens and their impact on poorer sections of society in many developing countries,

Recognizing that poverty is a complex and multidimensional problem with origins in both the national and international domains, and that its eradication constitutes an important factor to ensure sustainable development,

Noting that the efforts made at the national and international levels need to be enhanced to ensure the eradication of poverty,

1. Takes note of the note by the Secretary-General on the subject; 8/
2. Stresses the importance of domestic policies, including effective budgetary policies, to mobilize and allocate domestic resources for the eradication of poverty through, inter alia, the creation of employment and income-generating programmes, with particular reference to households headed by women, the implementation of food security, health, education, housing and population programmes and the strengthening of national capacity-building execution programmes;

4/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

5/ Ibid., annex II.

6/ Ibid., annex III.

7/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26).

8/ A/47/530.

3. Encourages all countries to undertake national strategies and programmes for the eradication of poverty, in particular devoted to the poorest strata of society, and involving a more active participation of the targeted communities in the initiative for and implementation, follow-up and evaluation of specific projects;

4. Reaffirms that a supportive international economic environment which takes into account the review of resource flows and structural adjustment programmes, integrating social and environmental dimensions, is crucial to the success of efforts of developing countries to deal with the eradication of poverty;

5. Reiterates its request to the international community to adopt specific, effective measures designed to increase financial flows to developing countries, and urges the developed countries, which have reaffirmed their commitment to reach the accepted United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance, to the extent that they have not yet achieved that target, to agree to augment their aid programmes in order to reach that target as soon as possible, some developed countries having agreed to reach the target by the year 2000; other developed countries, in line with their support for reform efforts in developing countries, agree to make their best efforts to increase their level of official development assistance;

6. Urges all donors to contribute generously to the tenth replenishment of the International Development Association, to the fourth replenishment of the International Fund for Agricultural Development and to other international financial institutions, with a view to ensuring that those institutions continue in their fight against poverty, especially in rural areas;

7. Urges the international community to continue to undertake technical cooperation programmes with a view to strengthening income and job creation capacities, improving food security, health, education and housing, and meeting other basic needs of the populations of developing countries, in particular the poorest groups among them, and, in that context, reaffirms that, with respect to the transfer of technology on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21, effective modalities should be examined with a view to implementing and enhancing that transfer as soon as possible;

8. Encourages the international community, including the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, to continue to support development programmes in all countries, in particular developing countries, including human resources development programmes, in order to strengthen endogenous technical capacity and generate opportunities for production and employment;

9. Welcomes the decision of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session to set up a Standing Committee on Poverty Alleviation and to request the Trade and Development Board to attach high priority to its work in the framework of its agreed terms of reference; 3/

/...

10. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the progress made in coordinating action, in cooperation with governmental and non-governmental organizations and other multilateral bodies, to formulate improved and enhanced action-oriented technical cooperation programmes for the eradication of poverty in all countries, particularly in developing countries, within the framework of the United Nations system, in accordance with the policies, priorities and strategies of those countries;

11. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "International cooperation for the eradication of poverty in developing countries".

93rd plenary meeting
22 December 1992



General Assembly

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A/RES/47/198
5 April 1993

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 82

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Second Committee (A/47/722)]

47/198. International debt crisis and development: enhanced international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 41/202 of 8 December 1986, 42/198 of 11 December 1987, 43/198 of 20 December 1988, 44/205 of 22 December 1989, 45/214 of 21 December 1990 and 46/148 of 18 December 1991,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, contained in the annex to its resolution S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, contained in the annex to its resolution 45/199 of 21 December 1990, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, adopted by the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, 1/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, contained in the annex to its resolution 46/151 of 18 December 1991, the document entitled "A New Partnership for Development: the Cartagena Commitment", adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, 2/ and the provisions on a durable solution to the external debt crisis, contained in the relevant chapters of Agenda 21, 3/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

1/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

2/ TD/364, part one, sect. A.

3/ See Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26) chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

Noting that, owing to uneven developments, further progress is needed towards the solution of the external debt problems of a large number of developing countries, in the context of the evolving international debt strategy,

Noting also that a few indebted developing countries have regained relative access to international financial markets under the difficulties described in the report of the Secretary-General, 4/

Noting with concern the continuing debt and debt-service problems of lower-middle-income developing countries, which adversely affect their development efforts and economic growth, and reiterating the need to address the continuing debt problems of those countries through effective debt-relief measures, bearing in mind, in this context, the special situation of lower-middle-income and certain middle-income African countries,

Also noting with concern the continuing existence of the heavy debt and debt-service burdens of low-income countries,

Noting with appreciation the recent initiatives towards the solution of the debt problems of some developing countries, such as the adoption by the Paris Club of the "enhanced terms" 5/ and the conclusion of several agreements on commercial debt and debt-service reduction,

Noting the substantial debt relief and debt reduction in favour of two middle-income countries agreed to by the Paris Club,

Stressing the importance of alleviating the debt and debt-service burdens of low- and middle-income developing countries with public debt problems,

Stressing also, in this context, the necessity of a supportive international economic environment, including an open and transparent multilateral trading system,

Emphasizing the importance for debtor developing countries to continue to pursue and intensify their efforts in their economic reform, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes, in order to raise savings and investment, reduce inflation and improve economic efficiency, taking into account their individual characteristics and the vulnerability of the poorer strata of their populations,

Expressing its concern that, in many developing countries, the burden of debt and debt service constitutes one of the major obstacles to the revitalization of growth and development, despite the often strenuous economic reforms of those countries,

4/ A/47/396.

5/ The "enhanced terms" are the terms offered by the Paris Club for the poorest, most indebted developing countries.

Noting that those developing countries which have continued, at great cost, to meet their international debt and debt-service obligations in a timely fashion have done so despite severe external and domestic financial constraints,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General concerning the external debt crisis and development; 4/

2. Welcomes the conclusion of several agreements on commercial bank debt and debt-service reduction under the evolving international debt strategy and takes note of relevant declarations recognizing the debt problems of some highly indebted lower-middle-income countries, taking into account their special and specific situations; 5/

3. Also welcomes the write-off by certain donors of a significant part of the bilateral official debt of the least developed countries, and urges those countries that have not done so to cancel or provide equivalent relief for the official development assistance debt of the least developed countries;

4. Expresses its appreciation for the initiatives taken by developed countries, including recent initiatives to address the debt problems of some middle-income African countries, encourages the implementation thereof and invites all creditor countries to consider taking relevant measures for middle-income debtor developing countries;

5. Stresses the need for the broadest and most expeditious implementation of the recent initiatives and the need to continue to build upon them, in order, inter alia, to prevent the proliferation of debt problems;

6. Also stresses the need for the implementation of additional debt-relief measures, including further cancellation or reduction of debt and debt service related to official debt, and for more urgent action with regard to the remaining commercial debt owed by developing countries;

7. Recognizes the urgent need to continue to provide a social safety net to vulnerable groups most adversely affected by the implementation of economic reform programmes in the debtor countries, in particular low-income groups, in order to ensure social and political stability;

8. Emphasizes the importance for developing countries to continue their efforts to promote a favourable environment for attracting foreign investment, thereby promoting economic growth and sustainable development;

9. Recognizes the need of debtor developing countries for a supportive international economic environment as regards, inter alia, terms of trade, commodity prices, improved market access and trade practices, and, in this connection, stresses the urgent need for a balanced and successful outcome of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations, which would result in the liberalization and expansion of world trade to the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

6/ See A/47/375-S/24429.

10. Reiterates the need for the implementation of initiatives involving developing debtor countries, developed creditor countries, commercial banks and multilateral financial institutions, with a view to easing the debt and debt-service burdens of severely indebted developing countries, which would contribute to recovery, growth and development in developing countries;

11. Stresses the need, in addition to debt-relief measures that include debt and debt-service reduction, for new financial flows to debtor developing countries, and urges the creditor countries and the multilateral financial institutions to continue to extend concessional financial assistance, as appropriate, in order to support the implementation by the developing countries of their economic reform, stabilization and structural adjustment programmes so as to enable them to extricate themselves from the debt overhang and to assist them in achieving economic growth and development;

12. Urges the international community to consider wider application of innovative measures, such as debt-for-equity swaps, debt-for-nature swaps and debt-for-development swaps;

13. Stresses the need for sustained action in addressing the debt problems of low-income countries and, in this regard, calls for early, expeditious and wide implementation of the enhanced terms currently offered to low-income countries by the Paris Club, as well as, where necessary, the extension thereof;

14. Calls upon private creditors to renew and expand initiatives and efforts in order to tackle the commercial debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries;

15. Urges creditor countries, private banks and, within their prerogatives, multilateral financial institutions to consider the extension of appropriate new financial support to developing countries, in particular the low-income countries with substantial debt burdens that continue, at great cost, to service the debt and meet their international obligations;

16. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

93rd plenary meeting
22 December 1992